

CLEAN COPY OF PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 21- 25 are pending.

21. A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

a comparator configured to receive a first border gateway protocol attribute related to a first mirrored service and a second border gateway protocol attribute related to a second mirrored service, said first mirrored service and said second mirrored service in a same autonomous system, said comparator configured to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a first multi-exit discriminator (MED); and

a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the second border gateway protocol attribute is a second multi-exit discriminator.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the predetermined criteria is a smaller one of the first multi-exit discriminator (MED) and the second multi-exit discriminator (MED).

24. A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

a comparator configured to receive a first border gateway protocol attribute related to a first mirrored service and a second border gateway protocol attribute related to a second mirrored service, said first mirrored service and said second mirrored service in a same autonomous system, said comparator configured to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute; and

a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the predetermined criteria is a predetermined community attribute.